

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, June 13, 2003*

## AGGRESSIVE SPEEDING REACHES TWO-YEAR LOW UNDER MPDC'S PHOTO RADAR PROGRAM

A record low percentage of motorists who drove through photo radar enforcement zones during May were speeding aggressively, according to the latest program data. In May, just 6.9 percent of the vehicles monitored by photo radar were traveling at speeds above the threshold speed established for the program. That is the lowest percentage of aggressive speeders detected by photo radar since the program began in the summer of 2001. In July 2001, by contrast, 30.9 percent of drivers in photo radar enforcement zones were speeding aggressively. In addition to the overall reduction in aggressive speeding, average speeds on all types of DC roads and highways continue to decline in photo radar enforcement zones. On residential streets with 25-mph limits, the average speed of all vehicles has declined from 35.5 mph in July 2001 to 27 mph in May 2003. On 30-mph roadways, the average speed of all vehicles has fallen from 37.6 mph to 29.4 mph during the same time period. The average speeds on these 25- and 30-mph roads in May were the lowest in the nearly two years of the photo radar program. During the first 22 months of full operation of photo radar, more than 561,000 Notices of Infraction were mailed and approximately 390,000 were paid, resulting in fines of close to \$29 million. This level of consistent enforcement has been achieved without pulling officers from other community policing assignments or otherwise diminishing public safety services in DC's neighborhoods.

## 5D OFFICER HELEN ANDREWS HONORED AS JUNE DEPARTMENTAL OFFICER OF THE MONTH

Earlier this year, Officer Helen Andrews of the Fifth District responded to a vehicle crash at Eastern Avenue and Otis Street, NW. As she arrived on the scene, Officer Andrews noticed one of the individuals involved in the crash attempting to leave the scene, a move she stopped. During the course of her investigation, the officer discovered that the man who had attempted to leave the scene did not possess a driver's permit. Officer Andrews conducted a search of the man's vehicle and discovered site and building plans for local police stations, fire stations, hospitals and military bases. Officer Andrews immediately notified not only 5D officials, but also members of the MPDC's Intelligence Section and the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force. The FBI is continuing the investigation of the case. In light of the continuing terrorism threat facing the residents of DC, Officer Andrews's alert and thorough work on this seemingly minor traffic crash demonstrates that the important role of local police in both homeland security and neighborhood safety. Her actions have earned her the Departmental Officer of the Month award, at the June CHAMPS ceremony. She was one of 22 MPDC officers recognized during the monthly luncheon sponsored by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC.

- ① See current photo radar results at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults\\_text.shtml](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults_text.shtml)
- ① DC's nearly four-year-old red-light camera program continues to produce impressive results as well, including a 64 percent reduction in red-light running violations at the 39 intersections equipped with cameras. Details at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/redlight.shtml>
- ① DC Superior Court Judge Melvin Wright on Thursday ruled that the MPDC's photo enforcement programs are constitutional, have compelling public safety benefits, and do not infringe on the due process rights of motorists who receive tickets. His ruling dismissed a lawsuit that had been filed by two vehicle owners claiming due process violations with the program, a claim the judge rejected.
- ① During the first wave of this year's Smooth Operator program targeting aggressive driving in the DC area, MPDC officers issued more than 2,000 traffic citations between May 24-31. DC's photo enforcement cameras captured another 14,000 violators. Details on Smooth Operator at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/smoothop.shtml>
- ① Read all of their outstanding and heroic actions by going to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2003/06.shtml>

## REGIONAL TASK FORCE INVESTIGATING SERIES OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS ON HOTEL EMPLOYEES

A joint task force of police from Arlington County (Va.), Greenbelt (Md.) and the MPDC is working to identify and apprehend the suspect or suspects wanted in connection with four sexual assaults. All the assaults, which occurred between May 11 and June 9, targeted female employees at area hotels. The first two incidents occurred at hotels in Northwest DC; the last two cases occurred in Arlington and Greenbelt. The suspect in these cases is generally described as a black male, in his 20s, and from 5'7" to 5'9" tall. In the last sexual assault, the victim scratched her assailant on the right side of his face. In addition, one of the victims managed to grab a ring from her assailant.

## MPDC ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR POLICE COMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS

The Metropolitan Police Department continues to accept applications for Police Communications Operators to help answer 9-1-1 and 3-1-1 calls to the District's Public Safety Communications Center. The Department is accepting applications for both English-only and bilingual (English-Spanish) operators. The Department is currently in the process of hiring 59 additional civilian call-takers based on earlier job announcements. However, the MPDC is continuing to take applications for a central Applicant Supply File that will be used to fill future vacancies in an expedited manner. The salary range for Police Communications Operators is \$31,334-\$39,392 per year. Bilingual personnel who pass a certification test also receive an additional \$50 per pay period.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Chatting with the Chief.** Chief Ramsey takes phone calls during his monthly guest appearance on WHUR 96.3-FM, on Tuesday, June 17, from 6:40 to 7 pm. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/media/media.shtm>

**Secure the Call Emergency Cell Phone Program.** The MPDC is participating in this regional emergency cell phone collection and distribution program. Individuals interested in donating old cell phones, which will be cleaned and reprogrammed to dial 9-1-1 and 3-1-1, can drop them off at any MPDC district station or substation. Citizen patrol and Neighborhood Watch volunteers, as well as other individuals interested in obtaining a free emergency cell phone should contact the MPDC's Community Outreach Section at (202) 727-0783.

**Drug Free Zones.** Drug free zones are in effect this weekend in the Fourth and Fifth Police Districts. Next weekend, drug free zones are tentatively planned for targeted locations in the Third and Sixth Districts. Details on the Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtm>

**Council Hearing on Chief of Police Compensation.** The DC Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 17, to consider the compensation portion of the new contract Chief Ramsey has signed with the District. Individuals and representatives of organizations who wish to testify are requested to telephone Aretha Latta, Administrative Assistant to the Committee of the Whole, at 724-8196, by e-mail at [alatta@dccouncil.washington.dc.us](mailto:alatta@dccouncil.washington.dc.us), or by fax at 202-724-7139. Written statements sent to the Council Secretary are also encouraged.

① Read the complete news release, and see a composite of the suspect and a photo of the ring, at: <http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2136>

① The MPDC is also seeking the public's help in an investigation into two attempted abduction incidents of children near a school in Southeast; both girls managed to escape unharmed. For more info, including a vehicle lookout: <http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2140>

① For complete information about these positions, including application procedures, click on: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>

① For individuals interested in a career as a sworn police officer, the MPDC will hold a day-long Career Fair on Saturday, June 28, at the new Washington Convention Center. Interested applicants may also apply online any time at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm>

### DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 6/13/03)

- 2003: 110
- 2002: 100
- % Change: +10.0%

Arrests (week ending 6/7/03)

- Total: 725
- Drugs: 98
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 19
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 41

Firearm Recoveries (as of 6/10/03)

- Total: 847
- June: 48

Traffic Fatalities (as of 6/13/03)

- 2003: 25
- 2002: 28
- % Change: -10.7%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**